(a) whether Government are aware that extreme exploitation of tribals is taking place in Madhya Pradesh in regard to the trade in minor forest produce and all the profits from minor forest produce are pocketed by a few middlemen at the cost of tribals;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove this blatant exploitation;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to provide financial support to the State Government for administrative set-up and also for building up alternative co-operative structure for removing exploitation in minor forest produce; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSAR): (a) Instances of exploitation of tribals by middlemen in Madhya Pradesh have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(b) to (d) Steps taken to remove exploitation of tribals

1. Union Government issue guidelines to States from time to time regarding increased participation of advisasis in collection and processing of minor forest produce so that their interests are protected.

2. Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) has been set up to provide marketing support to the State Tribal Development Federations in collection and marketing of minor forest produce.

3. Some States including Madhya Pradesh have taken over trade of some items of Minor Forest Produce to eliminate private traders.

4. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is providing financial assistance to the State Tribal Development Federations for the following:

   (1) Construction of buildings for fair price shops.

   (2) Construction of godowns.

   (3) Purchase of transport vehicles.

Issue of fresh licences

*291. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the present Export or Import Policy there is no provision to deny fresh licences to those who have already got licences; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to effect any change in its policy to give opportunity to others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNHI): (a) In the Export Policy for 1988—91, issue of fresh export licences are not related to licences issued earlier. So far as import licensing is concerned, presumably, the Question refers to grant of Import Licences for items like Dry Fruits. Under the current Policy, import of Dry Fruits (excluding Cashew nut and Dates), is allowed to dealers engaged in this trade and who have been getting licences for this item earlier. The value of the licence is calculated at the rate of 25% of the cif value of best years import during 1972-73 to the preceding licensing years, subject to a minimum value of Rs. 5,000/-.

(b) So far as Export Policy is concerned, the question does not